

doubtedly good. The greatest benefit is also derived from the free application of hot water in inflammation of the uterus and surrounding structures, whether the inflammation be acute or sub-acute. Frequently repeated and long-continued applications have proven beneficial where the smaller quantity ordinarily used has failed. Dr. Eichberg asked Dr. Taylor if there were not cases which could be treated without morphine. Dr. Taylor said, it was well to do without morphia as far as possible, for it interfered with secretion, and as death resulted from exhaustion, it was of the utmost importance to maintain the integrity of the digestive organs. Nourishment and sleep must be obtained—the latter by other means than morphia where possible. He believed large doses of this agent proved injurious. He had once been consulted in a case where an insurance company contested the payment of a policy on the ground of fraud in its procurement, the fraud consisting in the insured having concealed, or failed to state the fact that his sister had suffered from puerperal insanity. He was asked if puerperal insanity was hereditary, and expressed the opinion that it was a mark of hereditary weakness. In several of his cases of puerperal insanity the family history showed heredity. Dr. John Davis agreed as to the advisability of producing sleep without opium when possible, but would not discard it in all cases. He often met with success in the use of a combination of potassium bromide and chloral. Dr. Stanton said, the insane require larger doses of opium than the sane. When opium, given to produce sleep, should be given in large doses, small doses are a waste of the drug and a loss of valuable time. It will be obvious that under the term puerperal insanity are here included gestational, lactational, and puerperal insanity properly so-called, as well as cases in which insane women become pregnant.

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BLOOD OF THE INSANE.—Dr. S. Rutherford Macphail (*Journal of Mental Science*, October, 1884) concludes, after an examination of the blood of secondary confusional lunatics and terminal dements: 1. That the percentage of hæmoglobin is considerably below the normal standard and does not appear to be influenced by the age of the patient. 2. The percentage of hæmacytes is likewise diminished, and this diminution progresses with the age of the individual. 3. The proportion of white to red corpuscles is normal. 4. The blood is deficient in hæmatoblasts. 5. In patients over thirty the weight decreases, but this decrease does not appear to influence the relative percentage of hæmoglobin and hæmacytes.

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DELUSIONAL MONOMANIA.—Under this title Dr. M. H. Bochrach reports (*Polyclinic*, Sept. 15, 1884) the following case of alcoholic insanity: G. B., æt. forty-seven, white, married, a cabinet-maker, and Prussian by birth, came to the Polyclinic alone, and complained that

he had been poisoned by his wife. He said that he suspected his wife of putting poisons in his food. After taking milk, the day before coming to the service, while at work, he experienced a pulsation of vessels over the whole body. He said that he had been in this country for a year, and was perfectly well until the arrival of his wife, when he began to have weak spells, and also noticed a discoloration of the urine. He was the father of ten children, and thought their mother was trying to mislead them. He heard noises in the rooms which his daughters occupied at night; and was in a peculiar condition; for, though awake, he could not get up and find out the cause of the noises; there seemed to be some peculiar power over him which kept him down. His wife had a goitre which she painted with iodine, and he believed that she also mixed this with butter in preparing his meats. She got him so confused in Germany that he was unable to take care of his stock of goods, and in this way cheated him out of his fortune. His wife, who was from the chief European wine-raising district, was an expert in the mixing of wines, having learned the business from her father. He believed that his brother-in-law was affected like himself, through her doings. He had noises in his ears, like the escape of steam, but never had heard any voices. He was sure that his wife was not true to him, that she went with other men. He had tried, in Germany, to obtain a divorce on the strength of her attempts to poison him, but the judge, much to his disgust, ignored the case and advised him to come to this country. His wife followed him in about a year. When he was under the influence of her spells, he thought his sexual powers were injured. He was confident that she used some of her menstrual discharge to produce this effect. The wife of the patient was sent for, and said he had been out of his head for fifteen or eighteen years. He sometimes got violent spells and struck her. He suspected everybody coming to the house. He had bought a book on poisons, and had tried to study the diseases which they produced. Just now he thought that his peculiar symptoms were due to opium poisoning. He had no tremor, apparently no loss of memory. He had never been a hard drinker; he drank beer and wine at times, but not to excess. He was an intelligent man outside of his delusions. Nothing of a satisfactory character could be learned with regard to his family history. There are some indications pointing to paranoia in the case.

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RACE AND INSANITY.—The following tables show the types of insanity among the races in the Cook County, Ill. (Chicago), Hospital for the Insane, as compiled in 1884 by Dr. S. V. Clevenger.